

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-36 were pending prior to the final Office Action of which claims 25-36 have been withdrawn from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 5 has been cancelled through this Reply. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of claims 1-4 and 6-24.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting a Personal Interview with the Applicants' representative on December 18, 2007. During the Interview, the Examiner agreed that an amendment to independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 5 would overcome the outstanding prior art rejection.

Amendment

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended as agreed upon during the Interview. It is respectfully submitted, upon review, one would conclude that the amendments made to claim 1 does not add any new matter to the application and does not raise any new issue.

35 U.S.C. §102/103- Johnson/Nagai

Claims 1, 3, 6, 10-12, and 14-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Johnson et al. (USPN 6,104,388) ("Johnson"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 5 which recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the sensor arrangement comprises a sheet substrate with a closure area and an electrode area formed thereon, the substrate being bent such that the closure area and the electrode area form said closure element and said electrode element, respectively." The Examiner previously rejected claim 5 based on Johnson and Nagai.

However, as acknowledged by the Examiner during the Interview on December 18, 2007, none of the cited prior art references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified claim feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to withdraw the anticipation and/or obviousness rejection of independent claim 1 based on Johnson and Nagai.

Claims 3, 6, 10-12, and 14-23 are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency on corresponding independent claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTION - Johnson

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Johnson. Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 24 depends from claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated with respect to claim 1, claim 24 is also distinguishable from Johnson.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Nagai et al. (USPN 6,104,388 of record)(“Nagai”). Claim 5 has been cancelled through this Reply rendering the rejection as moot.

Claims 2, 4, 7-9, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Rockwell et al. (USPN 5,357,062)(“Rockwell”). These claims depend from claim 1, directly or indirectly. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 4, 7-9, and 13 are distinguishable from the combination of Johnson and Rockwell at least for the reasons stated with claim 1 above.

Conclusion

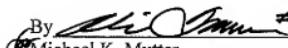
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims 1-4 and 6-24 are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam Reg. No. 58,755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #58,755
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